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**From:** Vela, Austin [Vela.Austin@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/28/2019 3:42:06 PM  
**To:** Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Bokun, Lisa [Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Assunto, Carmen [Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov]; Acevedo, Janie [Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov]; Fanning, Cynthia [fanning.cynthia@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** ACTION ITC Fire Congressional Inquiry DRAFT Response- Rep. Garcia (TX)  
**Attachments:** Deerpark\_.pdf

David—before sending to Christian, please see the DRAFT response below.

**Inquiry:**

From a call with Pat Bond (202-226-9928) from Rep. Garcia's office. His question is:

Due to the benzene exposure, what steps are being taken and/or what are the best practices for cleaning air filters or other steps being taken to protect vulnerable populations at schools and hospitals in the area?

**DRAFT Response:**

EPA continues to conduct ground level air monitoring with handheld equipment and the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology aircraft (ASPECT). The EPA Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling of outdoor air or emissions. It has been operating in the Deer Park and surrounding areas, to include schools and hospitals.

Based on current air monitoring reports from multiple sources within the Unified Command, there continues to be a low health risk to the general community.

Harris County Health Department has set up a *Ask My Nurse' Helpline* for residents to answer any health-related questions. They have also published the attached fact sheet.

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